

# Navigating Los Angeles County Trails A New Trails Manual

## Process & Benefits of Developing a Trails Manual

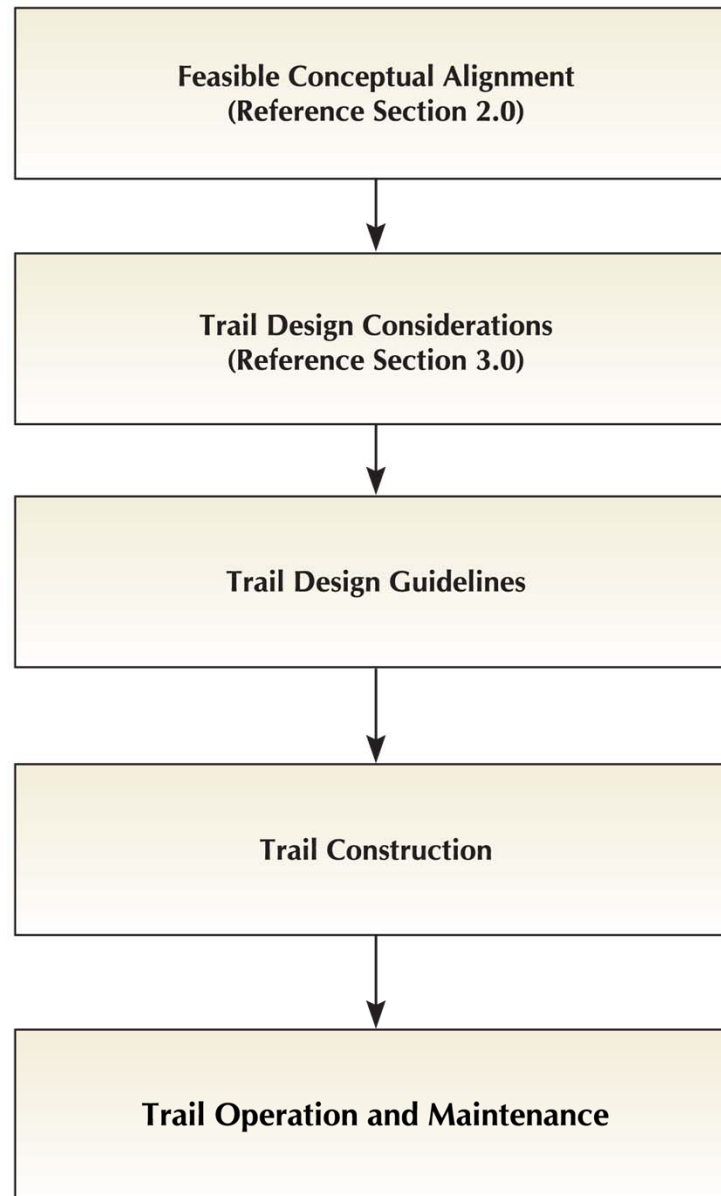
2012 California Trails & Greenways Conference  
County of Los Angeles  
Department of Parks and Recreation  
Sapphos Environmental, Inc.  
April 19, 2012



# Introductions

- Session Chair: Mr. Stephen R. Copley, Section Head, County of Los Angeles Department of Parks and Recreation (LACO-DPR)
- Co-Presenter: Mr. Frank Moreno, Section Head, LACO-DPR
- Co-Presenter: Ms. Marie Campbell, President, Sapphos Environmental, Inc. (SEI)





# Organization of the Presentation

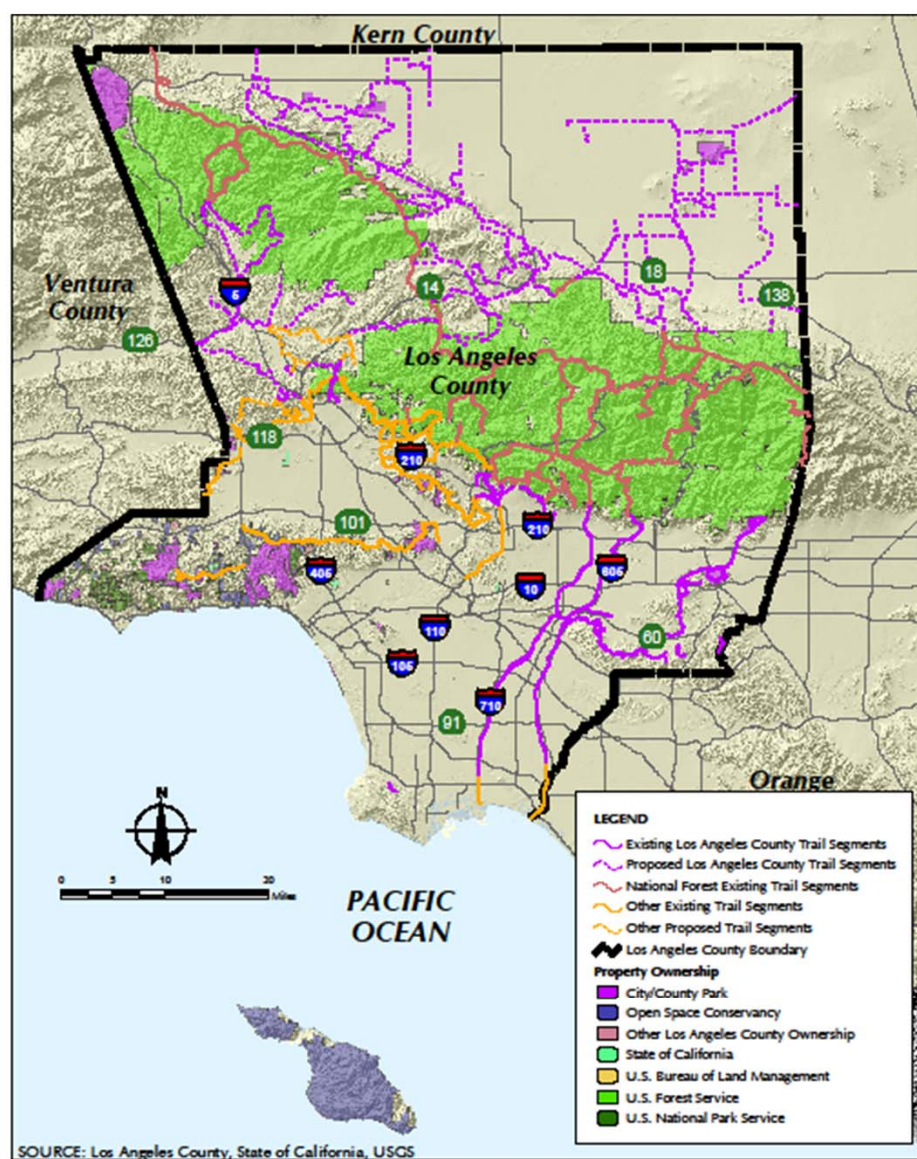
1. Introductions
2. Facts and Figures of Los Angeles County Trails
3. Need for the Trails Manual
4. Purpose of the Trails Manual
5. Developing the Trails Manual
6. Structure of the Trails Manual
7. Delegated Authority
8. Benefits
9. Applications of the Trails Manual



# Facts and Figures of Los Angeles County Trails

- Recreation essential to quality of life
- 54 to 80 percent of Americans recreate
- Integral part of Southern California lifestyle
- 63,000 acres in LACO-DPR system
- Need for 1,000 miles of additional trails by 2020
- 336 miles of existing trails and roads. All LACO-DPR trails strive to be multi-use





# Need for the Trails Manual

Prior to the 2011 adoption of the Trails Manual by the County of Los Angeles Board of Supervisors:

- No official trails manual
- No official guidelines for maintenance and construction of trails
- No assessment tool for trails
- Maintenance and development of trails found to be most cost-effective way to meet demand recreation





# Purpose of the Trails Manual

The Trails Manual was designed to:

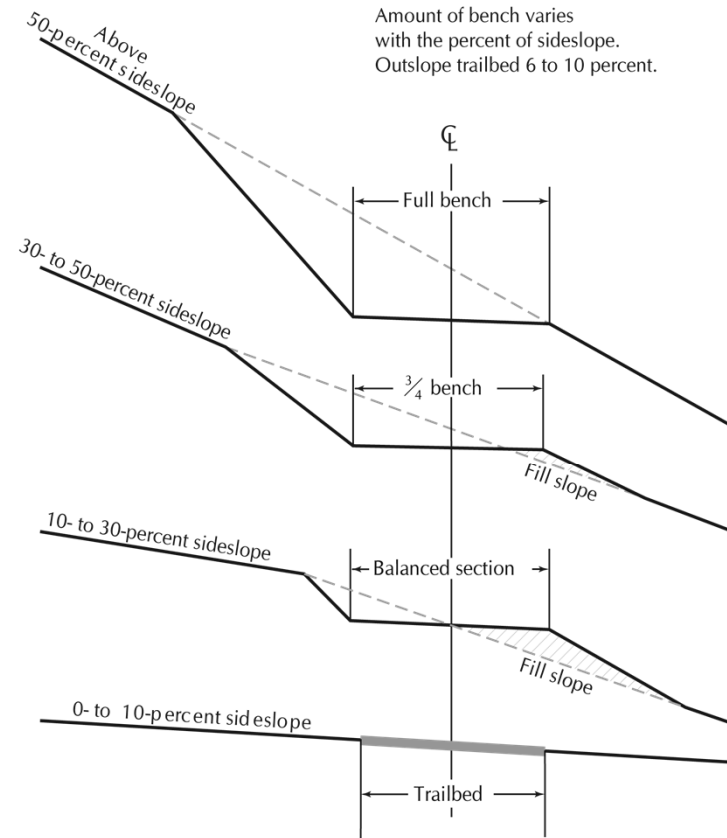
- Continue tradition of trails excellence
- Have County-wide application
- Appeal to all three user groups
- Establish a process for high-quality trails
- Be emulated by other interested agencies





# Developing the Trails Manual: Literature Review and Consultation

- Evaluated trails guidelines from U.S. Forest Service, National Parks Service, Federal Highway Administration, California State Parks, Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy, and others
- Reviewed trail design standards and specifications already existing in the County
- Performed site-specific investigations
- Solicited input from technical specialists



Typical trailway cross sections. Full-bench construction will create the fewest problems, especially on steep sideslopes.



# Developing the Trails Manual: Public Outreach

- 4 total e-mail blasts to over 500 interested e-mail addresses
- 12 total meetings with 163 total attendees:
  - 4 Trail advocacy group meetings
  - 2 Trails Manual agency meetings
  - 6 Draft Trails Manual public meetings
- Redirected non-Trails Manual questions to other projects and contact persons



Public Meeting Schedule				
SD	Meeting Location	Date	Time	Address
SD1	San Angelo Park	February 23, 2011, Wednesday	6–10pm	245 S. San Angelo Ave., La Puente, CA 91746
SD2	Kenneth Hahn Recreation Area	February 16, 2011, Wednesday	7–9pm	4100 S. La Cienega Blvd., Los Angeles, CA 90056
SD3	SD3 District Office Conference Room	March 3, 2011, Thursday	6–9:30pm	26600 Agoura Road, Suite 100, Calabasas, CA 91302
SD4	William Steinmetz Park	February 17, 2011, Thursday	6–10pm	1545 South Stimson Avenue, Hacienda Heights, CA, 91745
SD5	Acton Community Center	February 24, 2011, Thursday	6–10pm	3742 Nickels Street, Acton, CA 93510
SD5	Descanso Gardens (Birch Room)	February 28, 2011, Monday	6–10pm	1418 Descanso Drive, La Canada Flintridge, CA 91011





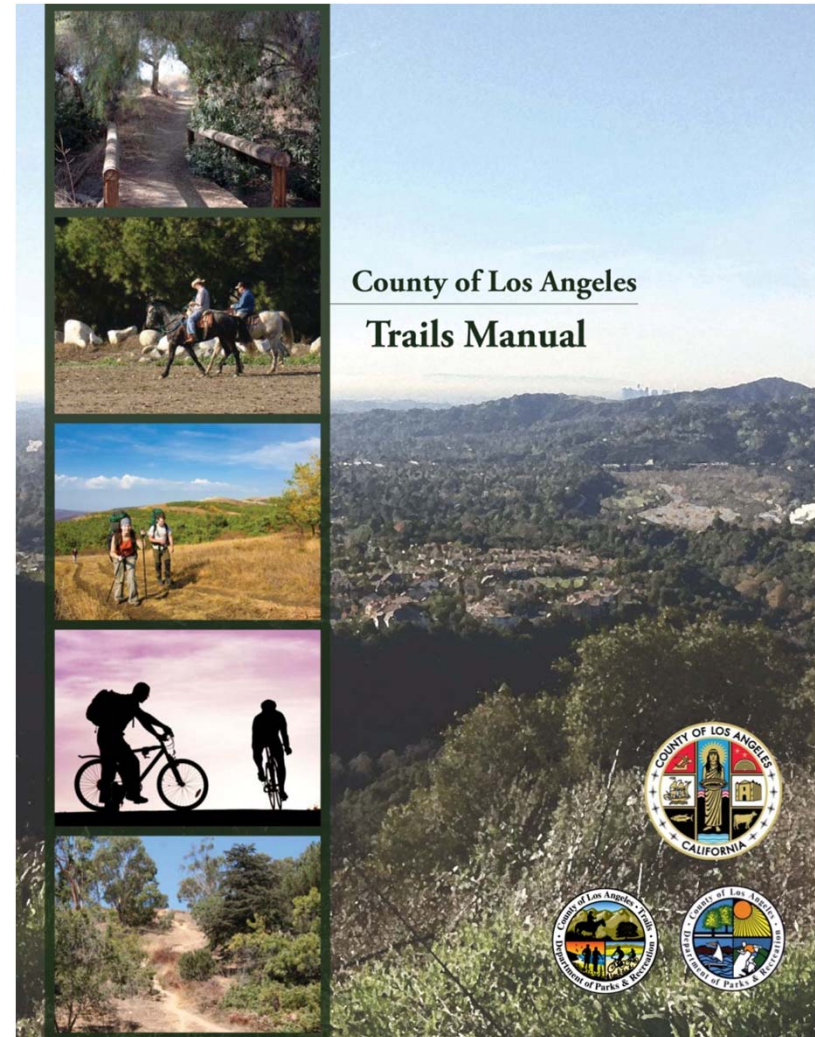
## COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES TRAILS MANUAL CONCEPTUAL SCHEDULE

Milestone	Date
Advocacy Group Meetings .....	July - August 2010
Trails Manual Agency Meetings .....	July and December 2010
Draft Trails Manual completed .....	Early February 2011
Draft Trails Manual Public Meetings .....	February – March 2011
Trails Manual Completed .....	May 2011
Trails Manual Approved by Board of Supervisors .....	May 17, 2011



# Structure of the Trails Manual

- Section 1.0, Introduction
- Section 2.0, Trail Planning
- Section 3.0, Environmental Compliance for Trails
- Section 4.0, Trail Design
- Section 5.0, Trail Operation and Maintenance
- Section 6.0, Manual Authors
- Section 7.0, References
- Section 8.0, Index



# Section 1.0, Introduction

- The purpose and need for the Trails Manual
- How the Trails Manual will be applied
- How the Trails Manual was developed

## Recommendations

- Start with development of goals and a mission statement
- Make purpose and need clear
- Outreach to all intended user groups and stakeholders





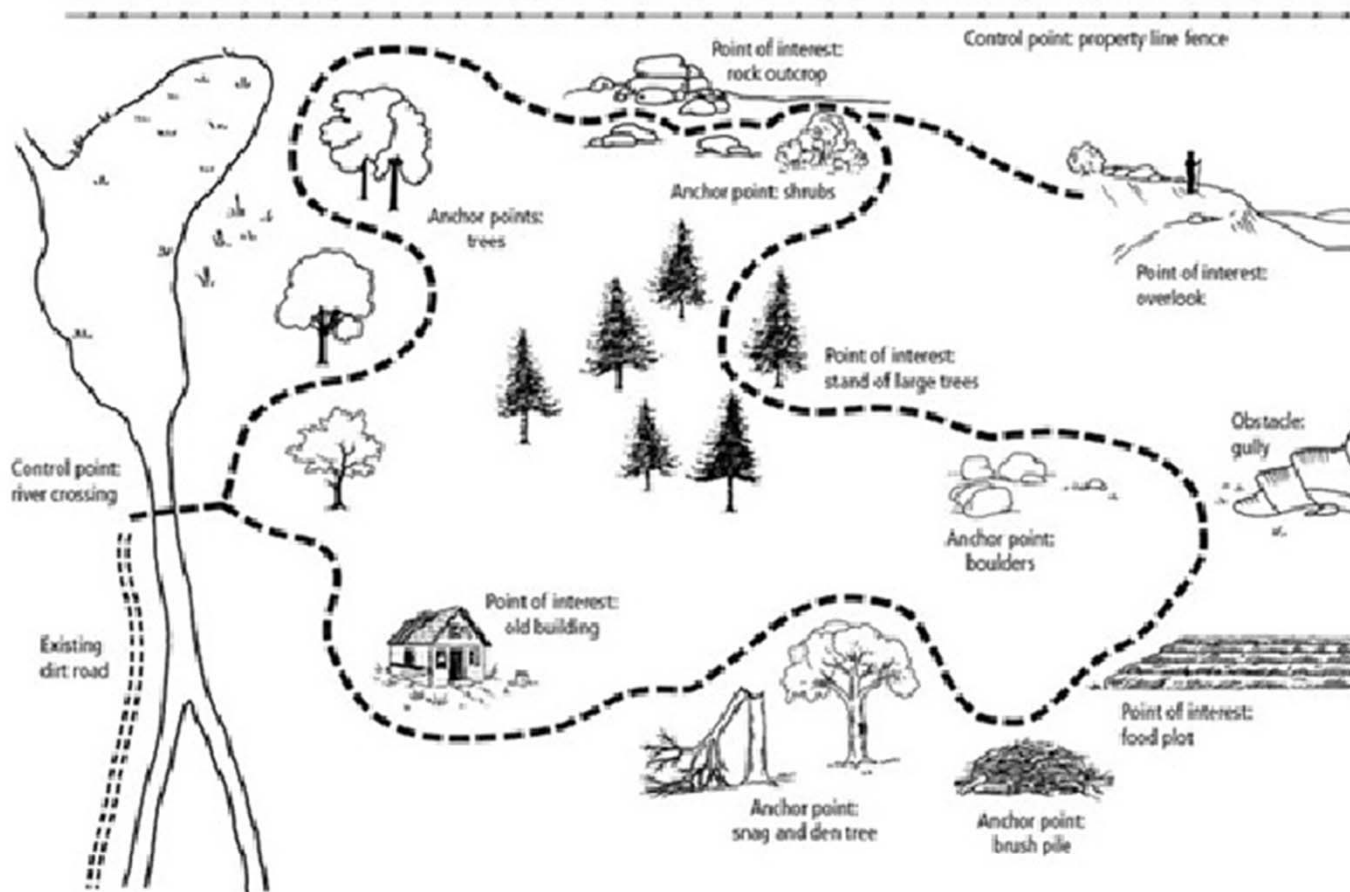
## Section 2.0, Trail Planning

- Steps involved in planning a trail:
  - Defining the goals and objectives
  - Including coordination with stakeholders
  - Evaluation of recreational trail needs
  - Inventory of existing trails and recreational resources
- How to create a conceptual trail alignment

### Recommendations

- Conduct site visits
- Identify all stakeholders (federal government, state, other active interested parties)





Conceptual Trail Alignment



## Section 3.0, Environmental Compliance for Trails

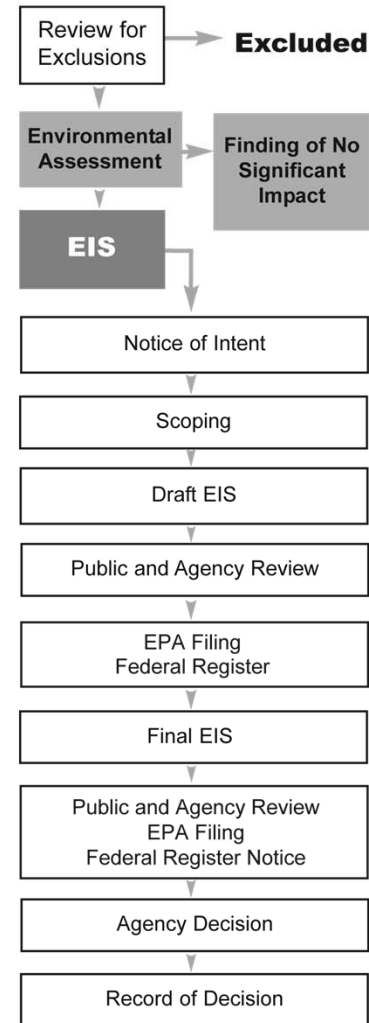
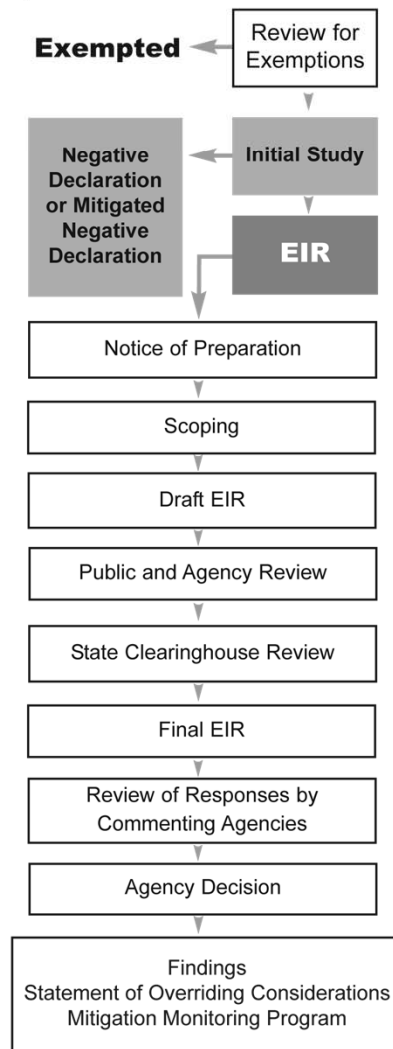
- Complying with the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA)
- Complying with the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA)
- Purposes of NEPA and CEQA
- The three-step NEPA and CEQA process
- Descriptions of CEQA documents
- Which regulatory agencies should be notified

### Recommendations

- Section to be written by NEPA/CEQA specialist
- Section to be NEPA/CEQA specific to trails
- Coordinate with regulatory agencies



# CEQA PROCESS



# NEPA PROCESS



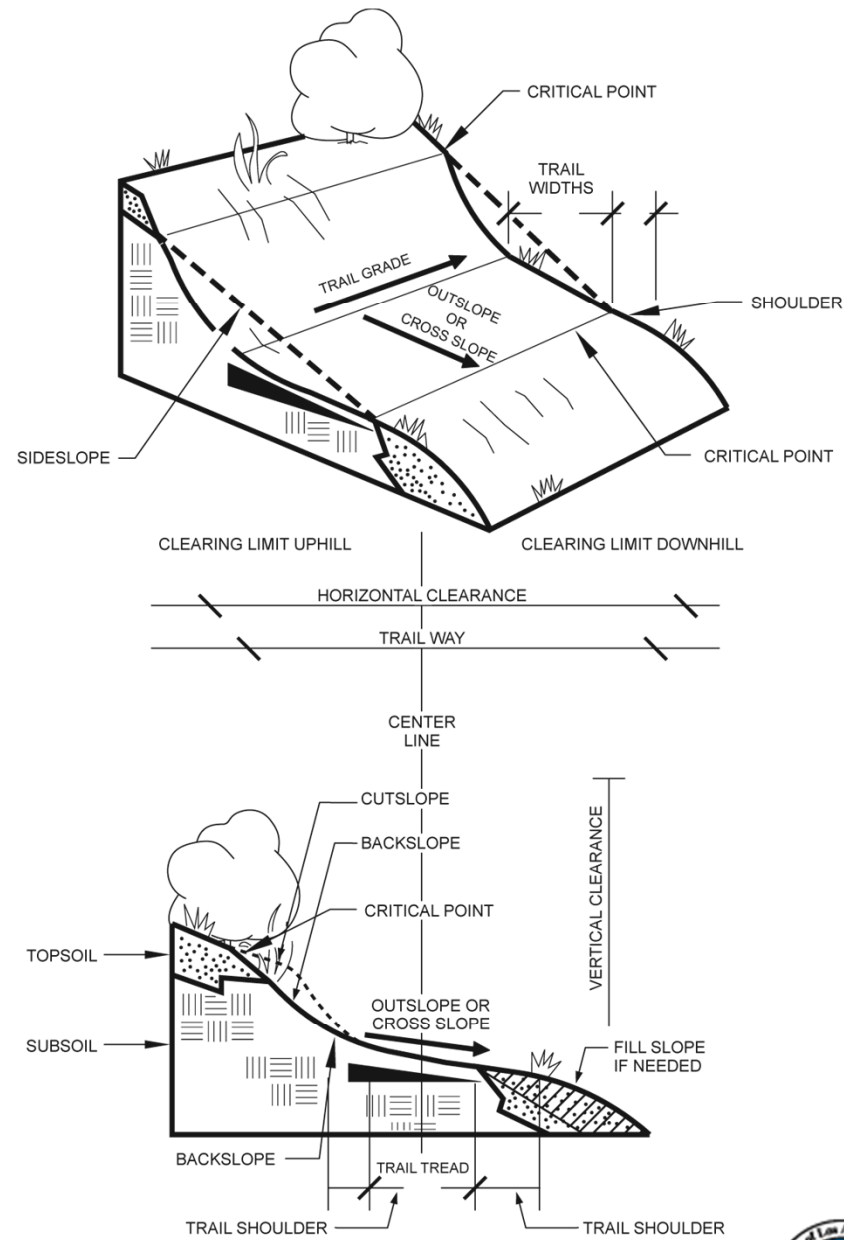
## Section 4.0, Trail Design

- Guidelines for design of future trails
  - Trail mechanics
  - Trail longevity
  - Application of design guidelines
  - Constructability is provided
- Requirements for different environments
- Issues that may arise between agency jurisdictions

### Recommendations

- Include numerous graphics
- Should be the largest design section
- Solicit most public comments for this design section







## Section 5.0, Trail Operation and Maintenance

- Guidance on operation and maintenance
- Guidelines from established agencies and sources
- Multi-year trail maintenance schedule
- Maintenance management system database

### Recommendations

- Include policy on types of trail users
- Solicit input from trail maintenance resources
- Analyze the state parks system and tailor it to own needs
- Make operation and maintenance cost efficient



### SAMPLE TRAIL ASSESSMENT AND REPAIR SHEET

Trail Name/Number:	Location (include Marker#):
Priority:	Crew Leader:

**Problem:**

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**Repair Methods Description:**

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Sketch Existing Trail:	Sketch Repair:
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Crew Members:	Tools Required:

Feet from Trail Marker	Feature (see Trail Work Log Key)	Action (see Trail Work Log Key)	Size Feature			No. of Units	Total Estimated Cost
			L	H	W		



## Section 6.0, Manual Authors

- List of persons involved in the development of the Trails Manual
- Special thanks

### **Recommendation**

- Special thanks should be given to agency representatives and organizations



## Section 7.0, References

- Organizations and persons contacted or consulted
- List of personnel involved
- List of references

### Recommendations

- Cite all bench-marked materials
- List of references should be annotated to identify the location of cited reference material



## Section 8.0, Index

- Alphabetized list of key terms used throughout the Trails Manual
- Page numbers on which each key term is mentioned

### **Recommendation**

- The last step in process after all sections have been finalized



# Delegated Authority



- Trails Manual is a “living, breathing” document
- LACO-DPR director has authority to update Trails Manual
- Trails Manual to be updated as needed
- Trails Manual to be updated with Department of Justice ruling





# Benefits



- Decreases operation and maintenance costs of trails
- Decreases liability
- Continues the County's goal of excellence in high-quality trails
- Helps LACO-DPR fulfill responsible agency role more effectively
- Streamlines design process
- Minimizes impacts to allow for lesser environmental documentation



# Applications of the Trails Manual

- A training tool for all LACO-DPR employees
- A guideline for all trails processes:
  - Trail planning and evaluation
  - Environmental compliance analysis
  - Collaboration
  - Maintenance



# Questions and Answers



# Special thanks to Supervisor Michael D. Antonovich for making the Trails Manual possible

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